**Princess Anne Middle School**

**2015-2016 Class Expectations**

**Teacher: Mr. McGinnis**   **Class: Civics and Economics 8**

**School Telephone Number*:*** 648-4950 ext. 59076 **E-mail Address:** Phillip.McGinnis@vbschools.com

**Best time to reach me:** M-F between 2:00-3:50 PM **Wikispaces Address:** pams-mcginnis@wikispaces.com

**Class and Assignment Information**: Subscribe to “My School Mail”, access my Wikispaces website and join my classes at Edmodo.com.

**Course Description**: This course emphasizes the roles and responsibilities of informed citizens in a democracy. Examination of the United States and Virginia constitutions provides the basis for the study of governments at the national, state and local levels. Students explore the reasons for and development of a variety of governments and economies from both historical and contemporary viewpoints. This course also covers the basic principles of Economics, especially as they relate to the United States and its trading partners. Students enrolled in this course will take the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL) test for Civics and Economics.

**Course Objectives:** All of the Grade Eight Social Studies Standards of Learning for the Commonwealth of Virginia are included in the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Social Studies Curriculum. Students mastering the material will be prepared to pass the Standards of Learning Test. A detailed listing of the Social Studies objectives and their correlation to the Standards of Learning are listed in the Parent/Student Course Information Sheets, which are provided by the city, or log on to the Virginia Beach City Public Schools Website at [www.vbschools.com](http://www.vbschools.com).

# Course Scope and Sequence: The course is divided into the following units: Unit 1 (A Government of Citizens), Unit 2 (Constitutional Government), Unit 3 (The Legislative Branch), Unit 4 (The Executive Branch), Unit 5 (The Judicial Branch), Unit 6 (People and Politics), Unit 7 (Economics), Unit 8 (State Government), and Unit 9 (Local Government).

# Texts and Materials: Civics and Economics by James E. Davis, Phyllis Fernlund and Peter Woll (Prentice Hall/Pearson 2010). A variety of audio, visual and electronic resources will also be incorporated throughout the year.

# On a daily basis, students are required to bring the following to class: a three ring binder with wide-ruled paper, a spiral notebook, an ink pen which writes in either blue or black ink, or a sharpened pencil.

**Assessment Measures**: Students will be tested with both objective questions and essays. Grading will be based on 100 percent and student progress will be evaluated through performance on tests, quizzes, completion of homework, class work, research, and group and individual projects. Students will also be assessed with pre-course, mid-term and post-course examinations that will demonstrate learning throughout the academic year. The Standards of Learning examination will be administered near the end of the academic year.

**Grading Procedures and Policies** The Virginia Beach City Public Schools’ grading scale is used: 93 - 100 A, 90 - 92 A-, 87 - 89 B+, 83 - 86 B, 80 - 82 B-, 77 - 79 C+, 73 - 76 C, 70 - 72 C-, 67- 69 D+, 64 - 66 D, Below 64 E. Grades will be posted by 5:00 PM one week after the due date. Lengthy assignments may take longer to post but the date of the posting will be announced in class. Late assignments are given the lowest priority to be graded. All assignments are due on the date assigned. Parents can review current grades by accessing the Parent Portal in the school’s website.

**Make-up work** is expected to be completed and turned in on time. Students will have extra time to complete assignments equivalent to the time missed from class. Students are urged to check my Wikispaces website for missing assignments before returning to school. All assignments can be read, downloaded and/or printed before returning to class. Doing this will make you better prepared to know what help I need to give you. Princess Anne Middle School has an academic detention program for teachers to utilize with students who fail to complete assigned work. Teachers will issue **academic detention** to students who fail to complete classwork, homework, or other assignments for the Wednesday following the week in which the work was due. Wednesday detentions will be held from 4:00-5:30 PM, and parents will be notified of the detention via an Alert Now email. The purpose of the academic detention is to notify parents of missing assignments and to ensure students complete and return work considered important to the learning process. Therefore, students will have until the day of the assigned detention to submit work owed. Those who do will not have to serve the detention. Students who must serve detention will be required to complete the work owed during that time frame. Keep in mind these academic detentions will not become part of a student’s disciplinary record.

# Civics and Economics 8

# Student Technology Use: Please access the PAMS website under “In the News” to learn more about the PAMS ‘Bring Your Own Device Policy’ (BYOD). As we transition toward more online work, students are invited to bring devices such as laptops, tablets, and smart phones. IT IS NOT NECESSARY FOR STUDENTS TO OWN/BRING SUCH A DEVICE in order to work online. We provide computers in class as often as possible. In addition, whenever homework requires technology, students may use school computers during our Homework Lab (7:40-9AM & 4-5:40 PM). We will also be making increased use of Edmodo.com. Students will establish new accounts for PAMS and parents will receive instructions on how to access their student’s particular page.

# Help Sessions: Extra help is always available to any student who requests it. Students can make arrangements for before-school help (from 8:40 AM to 8:55 AM), Monday through Friday, with 24 hours notice and parental permission. Parents may communicate their permission by signing the agenda. Parents are responsible for their child’s transportation to school.

**Procedures for conferences, parental contacts:** Students, parents, and teachers need to work as a team to ensure student success. Parents may reach me by e-mail or telephone (see above). When a student’s overall performance is below average, parents will be notified through their child’s agenda, progress report, a telephone call, or email.

**Citizenship Expectations:** A class atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance is expected and anticipated. In the event of problem behaviors, parents will be contacted and/or morning detention in room 215 will be issued. Detention times are from 8:00 – 8:55 AM. Afternoon detentions will not be available. Parents are responsible for their child’s transportation to school. Hopefully, detentions will not be needed. In the unlikely event of serious or chronic misbehavior, a referral to the administration will be made. Always follow the guidelines and rules found in your code of conduct and agenda. In addition, cheating in any form will not be tolerated. All students will follow the Honor Code.

**Parents and Student:** Please review, sign, and return the bottom portion of this page by Friday, September 18, 2015. Please include your telephone number(s) and e-mail address (if one is available). Thank you.

I am looking forward to a great year with your child!

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***Civics and Economics 8 – Mr. McGinnis***

Parent/Student Signature and Date: I have reviewed these expectations and information with my child and will support the teacher in the delivery of instruction for this coming school year.

Please complete and return by Friday, September 18, 2015

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Parent Signature Student Signature

Home Phone\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (Mom) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

E-mail\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone (Dad) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_